GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3912
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
THEFT OF FOODGRAINS FROM P.D.S.
Barman Shri Hiten;Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand;Jha Shri Raghunath;Ponnuswamy Shri E.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 40 per cent of wheat and 90 per cent of rice meant for sale through Fair Price Shops (FPS) at subsidized rates to poor persons do not reach the targeted persons and the same is sold in the black market at a premium;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to check such diversion of foodgrains and ensure that it reaches the targeted people; and

(c) the details of the FPS owners and officials arrested/convicted during the last three years for black-marketing of such foodgrains State-wise and Union-Territory wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. However the following measures have been taken by the Government to check diversion of foodgrains and to ensure that it reaches the targeted people:

(i) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order has been issued on 31-08-2001 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. As per the provisions of the Order, willful adulteration, substitution, diversion, theft of stocks from the Central godowns to fair price shops or at premises of the fair price shops shall be liable for criminal punishment under Section 7 of the Act.

(ii) State/UTs have been asked to actively involve the Gram Panchayats in rural areas and the local bodies in urban areas in the monitoring of the functioning of Fair Price Shops as a measure of social audit.

(iii) In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under PDS to the Consumer in a transparent and accountable manner, a model Citizen`s Charter has been issued by Central Government for adoption by the State Governments.

(c): As per reports received from the State Governments, number of persons ordered for detention including owners/officials of the FPS under the Prevention of Black marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, for black marketing of essential Commodities during the last three years state-wise and UT-wise is as under:

State/Year	2002	2003	2004	2005#
Gujarat	80	101	63	60
Tamil Nadu	17	05	01	02
Orissa	01	-	-	02
Uttar Pradesh	-	01	-	
Assam	01	-	11	
Maharashtra	-	-	-	01
Total	99	107	75	65

= as on 08-08-2005